

**Chevrolet Refuse
AML Enhancement Project
Harlan County**

Project Description

The proposed project consists of removing an existing coal refuse pile (approximately 27 acres total) for reprocessing. The refuse pile is located near the community of Chevrolet, upslope of the Right Fork of Enoch Branch. The site is in the Harlan Quadrangle at N 36° 49' 38" latitude and W 83° 16' 0" longitude.

The coal refuse pile was created between the 1920's and 1960's from underground workings within the Harlan and Creech coal seams by the Blue Diamond Coal Company. The existing coal refuse pile is a potential fire hazard, an environmental threat, and a possible source of stream pollution to the Right Fork of Enoch Branch.

Once removed, the coal refuse material will be trucked to a designated preparation plant. The existing access road will undergo some upgrades and be maintained during the refuse removal operations. These upgrades will include re-grading and ditching. Periodic watering of the access road will be performed to reduce the possibility of fugitive dust from the job site.

Once final grading has been completed, surface water runoff will be routed through stable vegetated ditches, rock lined ditches, or ditches excavated into rock. The diversions will extend either the length of the disturbed area, or as far as DAML personnel determine is necessary to control erosion and provide stability. All ditches will be constructed according to DAML specifications.

Prior to removal operations, vegetation within the removal site will be cleared. Trees over 3" in diameter will require removal. Once removed, vegetation will be burned where possible. Burning will not take place atop the existing refuse pile. The refuse will be removed beginning at the top of the pile and moving downward. The removal process will be simple, as the existing coal refuse pile is an actual mound that lies upon the natural ground line. The applicant will create a work area for which trucks will be loaded as refuse material is taken from the existing pile. The disturbed areas will be kept to a minimum with no unnecessary disturbances made. As previously noted, the removal process will not begin until all necessary drainage features are in-place. This process will allow for complete removal of the refuse pile with minimal disturbance of the refuse pile outslope at any given time.

All refuse removal will be conducted between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday, unless an emergency warrants the changing of the scheduled work hours. If emergency refuse removal is warranted, Division of Abandoned Mine Lands (DAML) personnel will be notified in advance of such removal. Emergency

refuse removal will not occur until DAML gives prior approval unless the emergency constitutes a direct and imminent threat to public health and safety.

As refuse recovery operations are completed, the area will be scarified, limed, topsoiled then seeded and mulched according to the revegetation plan. If the original topsoil located at the original groundline proves to not have been contaminated by the refuse material, alternate topsoil material will not be necessary. Upon completion of refuse recovery operations, all disturbed areas will be revegetated to prevent erosion and establish a suitable post reclamation land use.

Trees will be planted by DAML. The species and stocking rate will be determined by DAML personnel. All necessary permits and/or variances will be procured prior to construction. Metal debris or any trash, should it be encountered within the refuse area, will be hauled to an off-site approved landfill. Construction disturbances will be kept to a minimum through the use of a stringently formulated sediment and erosion control program, consisting of hay-bale silt checks and silt fences maintained throughout the life of the project, prompt re-vegetation using agricultural limestone, fertilizer, seed, netting and mulch for the areas disturbed by the project. A silt check will also be placed in the stream below the project area.

The entire project work area has been previously disturbed by coal mining operations, and/or road construction. These disturbances consist of significant upheaval, mixing, and removal of earthen material from deep excavation, grading, sub-surface drilling, fill material placement, and erosion. There should be no undisturbed earthen material to a depth of several feet at the areas slated for significant project-related construction activities.

This project will include pre- and/or post- project maintenance and repair of existing previously constructed public county roads utilized during the construction of this project, which are administered by the county or local road authority. Maintenance of the road shall include periodic inspection and cleaning of culverts and of ditches if necessary. Procedures will include the assurance that culverts do not collapse or become clogged. The surface of the road will be maintained by grading, filling and replacement surfacing materials. Sediment control from storm water runoff of road will be controlled by straw bales and silt fences if necessary.